

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5383

EUR/WE FOR RICHARD VINE

CU FOR ROBERT RICHARDS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: OEXC, NL (SCHAEFER, J.L.N.)

SUBJECT: FY 74 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM

REF: THE HAGUE 5265

1. DURING RECENT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH DCM, HOUSING MINISTER GRUIJTERS, COMMENTING ON HIS STATE SECRETARY SCHAEFER'S IMPENDING VISIT TO THE US, EMPHASIZED US SHOULD ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO SCHAEFER VISIT AND PLAN IT CAREFULLY. GRUIJTERS TOLD DCM SCHAEFER, THOUGH ONLY 33, IS MAJOR POLITICAL ASSET FOR DUTCH LABOR PARTY. AS GENUINE PRODUCT OF WORKING CLASS (HE WAS BAKER IN AMSTERDAM UNTIL ENTERING POLITICS ONLY FEW YEARS AGO), HE IS LOOKED UP TO BY HIS LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUES WHO LACK HIS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

2. MINISTER GRUIJTERS WAS LAUDATORY ABOUT SCHAEFER'S PERFORMANCE AS STATE SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF URBAN RENEWAL. GRUIJTERS, WHO DID NOT KNOW SCHAEFER UNTIL THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THE CABINET BEGAN LAST MAY, RATED SCHAEFER HIGH IN BOTH INTELLIGENCE AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS. MINISTER GRUIJTERS SUGGESTED SCHAEFER'S PROGRAM BE DESIGNED TO ENABLE HIM TO HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH EXPERIENCED HOUSING OFFICIALS AT FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL. GRUIJTERS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BOSTON AND PHILADELPHIA BUT SAID CHOICE OF CITIES WOULD BE UP TO SCHAEFER AND HIS PROGRAMMER IN WASHINGTON.

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3. GRUIJTERS SAID ALTHOUGH SCHAEFER DOES NOT STAND ON PROTOCOL, NOR IS HE FOND OF FORMALITY, US SHOULD INsofar AS POSSIBLE ACCORD HIM VIP TREATMENT. SCHAEFER HAS NEVER VITED US AND THEREFORE (ACCORDING TO GRUIJTERS) IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HIS FUTURE ORIENTATION TOWARDS US THAT HE RETURN TO NETHERLANDS WITH STRONG FEELING OF SATISFACTION OVER PRACTICAL RESULTS OF HIS VISIT.

4. SCHAEFER VISITED EMBASSY DEC 3 TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP WITH CAO. HE STRUCK EMBOFFS AS INTELLIGENT, FRIENDLY BUT SLIGHTLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT VISIT. WE SUSPECT THIS IS BECAUSE HIS ENGLISH NOT GOOD AND THUS SCHAEFFER IS COUNTING ON KOMBRINK COMBINING PROGRAM WITH HIS. SCHAEFER AFFECTS RATHER UNORTHODOX MODE OF DRESS WHICH WE ARE UNCERTAIN HE WILL STICK TO IN US. SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS STATE SECRETARY BY QUEEN IN MAY HE HAS ALMOST HABITUALLY WORN LEVIS WITH MATCHING LEVI JACKET AND WORK BOOTS. WHEN IN PARLIAMENT SCHAEFER ORDINARILY WORE JACKET AND TIE OR AT LEAST TURTLENECK SWEATER. SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER KOMBINK, WHO IS ONLY 26, ALSO AFFECTS COUNTER-CULTURE MODE OF DRESS. WE ARE ALSO NOT CERTAIN WHETHER HE MAY DECIDE TO DRESS A BIT MORE CONVENTIONALLY DURING US STAY. IN ANY EVENT, WE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THAT BOTH OF THESE YOUNG LABOR PARTY POLITICIANS REPRESENT A FIRST INSTALLMENT ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE NETHERLANDS AND WE DEEM IT ESSENTIAL THAT GHEY BE GIVEN BEST TREATMENT POSSIBLE. WHILE BOTH HAVE SOMETIMES ADVOCATED POSITIONS AT VARIANCE WITH US VIEWS, BOTH ARE ALSO OPEN-MINDED AND KNOW FROM COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE TRAVELLED PREVIOUSLY HOW WELL-RUN AND HOW VALUABLE IV PROGRAM IS. SINCE SCHAEFER-KOMBRINK COMBINATION NOT USUAL WELL SCRUBBED DUTCH INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, WE THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL.

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